

**Dr. Peterson**

**College of Engineering Alumni Awards Ceremony**

6:30 p.m. Saturday April 5, 2014, The Ritz-Carlton, Atlanta

Welcome to one of the great nights each year for Georgia Tech's College of Engineering. Last week, we celebrated the leaders of the future during our Georgia Tech InVenture finals, and this evening we will honor those who have already achieved great things, or are doing so right now in their careers. The distinguished alumni that we will recognize tonight have truly lived up to the high standards of the Georgia Tech motto: "Progress and Service."

My fellow Yellow Jackets, you come from a very special place, and I'm sure you realize that. You have taken the skills, knowledge, and pride in accomplishment that Georgia Tech helped you acquire, and made the world a better place. You have started businesses, innovated in your fields, and served as thought leaders nationally and internationally. On behalf of the Institute, I extend sincere congratulations to all those being recognized and honored here tonight. You are role models for our younger alumni and current students, who will look to you and see possibilities in their own lives that they could hardly have imagined.

But you are more than just role models. You are achievers and leaders in your community and the wider world. You are indispensable in a time that faces many challenges which your skills and drive are well-suited to tackle. Some of you have already carved out your place and can take pride in the "Progress and Service" you have provided. And others of you, although you've already accomplished great things, look to the future and realize that your professional journey still has many miles remaining.

Georgia Tech people are not passive. The work you have done, and the work you will do, will shape the future and make our world a better place. In doing so, you will continue to serve as examples of Georgia Tech's drive for excellence and innovation, a

thirst that has been in our Yellow Jacket DNA since the Institute was founded in 1885. You all share an unmatched technological education, along with the ability to think critically and address complex challenges, and the determination to have a positive impact on our world.

Our honorees tonight are at various stages in their careers, but they all have a passion for high standards, hard work, and entrepreneurial drive. They come from fields that range from academia to government to industry, and they have all been outstanding. Tonight I am thrilled to see them inducted into the Georgia Tech College of Engineering Hall of Fame.

On behalf of the entire Georgia Tech community, please accept our thanks for the wonderful service you provide for your own organization, the Institute, and our nation, through your commitment to excellence. Please enjoy this exciting evening as you celebrate the outstanding achievements of those receiving a College of Engineering Alumni Award.